

Woosehill Church Magazine

March - April 2019

Sharing God's love with the community



*We are on Chestnut Ave, just around the corner
from The Hawthorns School.
'All are welcome here'*

**Find us on our website
woosehillchurch.org
and Woosehill Church Facebook page**



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

We are a church for the community; we are here at Woosehill Church for the good times and the bad. At the end of last year we were in party mood as we marked our 25th anniversary, celebrating the history of our church and welcoming back old friends.

More recently we have sought to be a place of sanctuary and comfort for a community grieving the loss of a much loved little girl. It was a privilege and a blessing to open up the church for quiet reflection and prayer as she neared the end of her life.

That is what church is all about, you can bring your joys and sorrows here and with His Grace we will try our very best to show and to share God's love with all who come through our doors.

This is another packed and varied issue of our church magazine; I hope you enjoy reading it. Do share it around with friends, family and neighbours; there are always plenty of copies at the back of the church.

With every blessing

Val

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

16 May 2019

Articles as usual preferably by e-mail to:
valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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Clergy Letter

As I'm sure you will have noticed Easter eggs and Hot Cross Buns are now available in the shops – the forty days of Lent have arrived! Our journey through Lent begins with services on Ash Wednesday, March 6th as our foreheads are marked with ashen crosses.

The Bible relates how ashes were used in ancient times to express mourning and was the penitent's means of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. In the book of Job we read of him saying to God "I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6). In a similar vein Daniel pleads to God "Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes". (Daniel 9:3)

The ash we use on Ash Wednesday comes from the burning of last year's Palm crosses. That ash is mixed with a little Oil of Baptism so reminding us of our calling, our turning to God, our being claimed as Christ's own at our Baptism. As we're each ashed we receive a sign of the cross on our foreheads, a powerful symbol of Christ in our lives and of His great love for us.

We are each viscerally reminded of our *calling* as children of God . . . cradled from the beginning of my existence for all time, from my baptism to my death, from your baptism through to your death there is no place, no darkness and no grave that is beyond the love of God. The very *fragility*, the *frailty* of human life is evident in that ash . . . the ash that traced the sign of suffering, of death and yes, of resurrection – forty days later.





The Lenten season is a time of reflection on how that calling is worked out in our lives . . . in both times of joy, in times of challenge and how we may better follow our Lord Jesus Christ. The ashen cross connects us to Christ, reminding us of our journey as His disciples. In the same way that He gathered the disciples round him, often away from the crowds to pray in silence let's be guided by Christ himself as we pray. Just as He turned to God in His ministry, alone, in the desert, at early dawn, on mountainsides, in Gethsemane and on the cross, let's place ourselves before God asking for His guidance.

As we journey through Lent this year, recall the words of Fr Richard last month "sometimes problems arise because we have stopped noticing the beauty and power in what is right in front of us" . . .

Lent is a time when we pay attention to what is *truly* important in our lives, a time when we can intentionally let go, a time to maybe take stock of our lives, a time to walk with Jesus in His footsteps on the road to Calvary, to give Him some of our time and so be blessed with finding the richness of His presence in our lives.

And of course, letting go of ourselves, our preoccupations and concerns we may attend more to what God is actually saying to each one of us and be guided by His grace and pray as the Psalmist wrote;

'Make me to know your ways, O Lord: Teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, For you are the God of my salvation: For you I wait all day long'. (Psalm 25:4-5)

And as we turn to God in prayer we're not alone as we journey through Lent, Christ guides us as we join our prayers with his. This Lent try putting aside the demanding voices of this world, open yourself to God and wait for His blessing. God calls us longing to pour his mercy and grace into our lives. Our Lenten journey is an opportunity as He teaches us what it is to be a child of God, to be

marked with his cross, to walk empty handed and with minds open to God's word of love.

'O Lord you have searched me and known me, You know when I sit down and when I rise up, You discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways'. (Psalm 139:1-3)

May this Lent be for all of us, a time of discovery and peace as we travel with Jesus trusting only in his light to guide us.

Rev'd Julie Mintern

A Prayer which aptly describes our PMC mission*

"God of health and wholeness, we know that our well-being depends not only on the functioning of the body but on a host of emotional and social factors. So we pray that we may offer generously to others the gifts of friendship, kindness and community. May we identify the social needs in our neighbourhood and try to meet them. May we exercise our responsibilities as citizens both of our earthly community and the kingdom of heaven, bringing the light and life of Christ to any and all people in our neighbourhood. This week make us alert to the possibility of making a difference in some way, to somebody."

John Pritchard 'Breathe new life into prayer - The Intercessions Resource Book. 2018

**Partnership for Missional Church*



Thanks for making us smile Amy!

A few weeks ago I'd agreed to pick up Sue Falquero for church. But as I was on sidesperson's duties I asked her to be ready at 9.15am sharp. As it happened I'd been to the hairdressers the day before, so I didn't have to wash my hair that Sunday - this meant I had more time than usual. So, I did an 'Amy' and filled in my time, which of course made me late. After my curt order to Sue I was desperate to be on time, so picking out a couple of black shoes from my wardrobe I placed them by the front door and at the last minute shoved my feet in them and ran to the car. I picked up Sue without getting out of the car (I think) and it wasn't until I got into church that I realized I was walking funny. On inspection I'd got one shoe with a high heel and one with a low one! Of course, this was very difficult to disguise having to walk around with the collection and ushering people to the communion rail etc. By the end of the service John couldn't stop laughing and Ian Fletcher was having a good time telling everyone! At least they were both black. But to cap it all last Sunday John on inspection of my name badge pointed out it said W.I. on it! Well the name was right.

I decided to go into verse to share this story with you all:

Our Amy an old sidesperson was she

Who had trouble in bending zee knee

When to Church she did go

With one heel high and one low

The congregation was consumed with much glee

Apart from John who was in hysterics!



Change

We live in a time of unprecedented change in so many ways. How do you deal with change?

Dealing with change is a vital skill in the modern world. This skill is not often taught, but it is still very important to all of us. Dealing with change effectively is much harder when we feel threatened by change. Sometimes change can be a threat to us, for instance if somebody close to us has a major health problem. Often change means that things we have spent years getting to understand are now different, which can be very distressing. Brexit is a current example of this. Some things will change and there is no way of knowing whether the post Brexit world will be better or worse than before Brexit. For me, the most important thing in this situation is to keep faith with ourselves. Everything may be changing, but each of us will be the same person after Brexit than we were before. This applies to most types of change.

I try very hard to live in the present moment and not worry about what might happen in the future and keep faith with myself and God. Faith in God makes dealing with lots of things much easier because I know that God cares for me and will care for all of us if He is asked to do so. God has been looking after His people for many centuries. During this time there has been a lot of change and God is still there, still caring for us. My faith in God gives me the ability to withstand the winds of change and as He cares for me, I have the confidence to know that I can thrive through change by keeping faith with him, believing in myself and not worrying about what has happened in the past or what might happen in the future.

Geoff Peck - taken from a series of articles that Geoff wrote for the Wokingham Paper in 2018. More to follow!



Stories that make us excited

"The trustees of Wokingham United Charities are pleased to inform you (Woosehill Church) that your recent grant application has been successful and you have been awarded a grant towards the cost of art materials for the new Art Group" I had to read that email statement a couple of times before I could believe it! What an answer to prayer! God at work in Woosehill Church - providing yet again!

My involvement in all this began a couple of years ago - at the end of a church service where **Partnership For Missional Church (PMC)** had been mentioned. *"Go and find out what this PMC is all about"* This was a bit more than a thought - it was one of those strong impressions that grabs hold of you and won't let go!

I asked that very question of someone who I knew was involved in PMC and was immediately invited to come to a meeting. To cut a long story short, it took me a while to get my head round **PMC** but, when I did, I found myself excited by the idea of asking God to show us what He is doing - and where He wants us to join with Him in doing it.

"Trying to do PMC without prayer would be like sowing seeds and forgetting to water them" For the past two years many in the church have been praying daily automatically-emailed prayers for our community. As I read through those prayers now, I am struck by one such prayer:-

"Give us stories to tell of how you 'show up' – how you guide and provide – stories that make us excited and want to tell people about you so that they, too, may be drawn to you."

That's a prayer that has been answered over and over again - and the grant from Wokingham United Charities is just the latest answer!

It had become clear, as we set out to seek what God would have us do, that Woosehill Church didn't have the manpower or finances to undertake grandiose schemes to reach out to build community here on Woosehill. We had to think in terms of working with other people and organisations. *"Bring the people you want us to work with into our lives and enable us to be channels of your love in our community,"* we prayed daily. This was another prayer that would be answered - in unplanned and unexpected ways!

"If you were isolated or lonely", a group of Woosehill Church ladies were asked, *"what would you like to have available"* A few ideas were floated, than one lady said *"I'd like to sing"* That germ of an idea took root, and resulted in **Sing Something Simple**

Shortly afterwards we set up a knit and natter group, **Wool With A Mission**, to reach out to lonely or isolated people. At one session someone just happened to mention **First Days** - a charity that provides clothing and other necessities for local children in need. **Wool With A Mission** and **First Days** have now teamed up - and we are knitting and crocheting for local children in need. Just in the past few days, three new ladies have made contact, having spotted a post on facebook. ***"Bring the people you want us to work with into our lives and enable us to be channels of your love in our community"***



Woosehill Watercolour is the result of an overheard conversation one morning after the service. Sue Smith, a watercolour teacher at Bracknell College just happened to be talking about how she goes into old people's homes to do simple painting with the residents. Would she be willing to head up a watercolour group for PMC? Yes she would! Another answer to the prayer:

"Bring the people you want us to work with into our lives"

We've been trialling Woosehill Watercolour for a few months now, but we needed to buy some art materials before we could launch and publicise the group. We wanted to ensure that people who had no paints and brushes of their own could have a go. We estimated that to buy enough materials for ten people would cost around £500!

I was talking about this, again after a service, when Jo Cullinane joined us mid-conversation. *"Do you know that Wokingham United Charities are looking to give money to people who are working for the lonely and isolated?"* Jo asked. Just a couple of months later we received the email from them. *"The trustees of Wokingham United Charities are pleased to inform you (Woosehill Church) that your recent grant application has been successful and you have been awarded a grant towards the cost of art materials for the new Art Group"*

For the past two years our e-prayer group has been praying

"Give us stories to tell of how you 'show up' – how you guide and provide - stories that make us excited and want to tell people about you so that they, too, may be drawn to you."

Eileen Fletcher



Tithing

From the Collins English Dictionary "A tithe is a fixed amount of money or goods that is given regularly in order to support a church, a priest, or a charity." Old Testament biblical references are to 10% - of produce, livestock, profit or income. Today, with many of life's aspects covered by taxation, giving in the context of the church is a matter for individual conscience, but, with annual running costs in excess of £67,000 for the year ended 31st December 2017, is clearly absolutely vital.

But, no matter how vital, the encouragement of congregational giving is not the primary purpose of this article – it is to highlight the charitable giving of the Church itself. From the earliest days of Woosehill Church it has been our policy to tithe 10% of the annual giving to the Church to charities and other good causes. In 2018 we allocated some £5,600.

Those charities and causes are mainly and deliberately Christian organisations, but not necessarily so. We have, from time to time, made donations to the government's Disasters Emergency Committee and also to UNICEF.

A number of the recipients are organisations linked to our parent churches and we try to strike a balance between the two. For instance, we give to the C of E's Children Society and the Methodist Action for Children and to the Church Mission Society and to Methodist Overseas Missions.

Most of the donations are relatively small, commonly £100, but there are substantially larger donations. For many years we have been financial (and sometimes baking) supporters of The Wokingham Area Schools Christian Worker Trust which operates under the name of Soulscape and works with Wokingham and Bracknell schools to give young people the space they need in today's pressurised atmosphere. In particular, their Mind the Gap project helps with the transition from junior to senior school. We currently support them to the tune of £1,500 a year.



For a number of years we have supported Yeldall Manor, a Christian residential drink and drug rehabilitation centre in Wargrave, with £500 a year.

In addition, it is our policy to have a long term charity, usually overseas, but not necessarily so. This usually lasts for 2 -3 years with an annual donation of £500, giving us the opportunity to find out more about their work. Currently we are supporting Embrace The Middle East, a Christian charity set up in 1854 and currently with projects in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt helping people of all faiths and none to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice.

The donations are proposed to the Church Council annually by a committee for approval, but we do try to involve the congregation by seeking suggestions. And we do, of course, support the various organisations in prayer in our intercessions.

John Hoskins



Our church charity

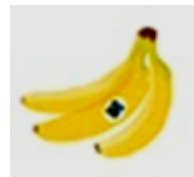


On February 10th we were delighted to welcome a representative of our current church charity, Neil Graham, to our morning service. He inspired us with his presentation in the service which he shared with Richard. Please see the noticeboard for the letter of thanks for our Woosehill welcome and for the total raised from the retiring collection and the church's contribution.

Fairtrade banana cake

Cake Ingredients

500g extra-ripe, soft Fairtrade bananas
400g plain flour
280g unsalted butter at room temperature
350g Fairtrade golden caster sugar
2 tsp baking soda
A pinch of salt
200ml sour cream
3 tsp Fairtrade vanilla extract
4 large free-range eggs



Chocolate Icing Ingredients

40g unsalted butter at room temperature
230g Fairtrade icing sugar
30g Fairtrade cocoa
2 tbsp milk



Method

- First, preheat your oven to 180 °C/350 °F/ Gas Mark 4
- Next, sift the baking soda and flour in a large bowl. Stir together. Using an electric hand mixer, add in the butter until the mixture has a creamy consistency.
- Using another bowl, mix the vanilla extract and the sour cream together by hand. Blend this into the flour mixture above.
- Add in the eggs one at a time to the mixture, beating well after each egg. Mix in the sugar.
- Mash the bananas and add to the overall mixture until combined.
- Pour the mixture into the greased cake tin and bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
- Allow the cake to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then remove from its case and place on a rack to cool.
- Serve your cake warm with or without icing.
- For the optional chocolate icing, sift the icing sugar and combine with butter, sugar, cocoa and milk. Beat until smooth. Once the cake has cooled, spread evenly and serve.



The Parish of St Paul Wokingham Sermon series 2019

as part of Choral Evensong at St Paul's @ 6.15 pm
on the 3rd Sunday of the month



May the 19th: the Rev'd Mark Birch

Mark has been a Minor Canon at Westminster Abbey since January 2015. As Sacrist, he shares responsibility with the Precentor for the daily worshipping life of the Abbey and the many special services in both the Abbey and St Margaret's Church. He was previously Priest-in-Charge of the parish of St Faith, Chaplain at the Hospital of St Cross and Chaplain at Treloar College in Alton, in the Diocese of Winchester. He was previously Chaplain at Helen and Douglas House in Oxford, and before that Chaplain and Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. He served his curacy in Cirencester.

WOW Calendar for 2019

March 25th at 8pm: Book Evening with Val Weedon



April: Gardening and Afternoon Tea with Ruth



May: Cake tasting with Sue Falquero



June: Walk and pub with Amy



July: Al fresco evening with Lyn Brown



August: Walk and picnic at Dinton with Gillian



September: Meal out with Lynne Paine



October: Skittles evening with Lynn Smith



November: Learn to crochet with Eileen





Woosehill Church Quiz Night



**April 27th 6:45pm for a prompt 7:00pm start
at**

The Parish Rooms

Teams of up to 8 people, come on your own or as
a team.

Fish and Chip Supper £10/ person

Sausage or Veggie available.

Payment and food orders to a Steward by
Friday 19th April.

Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Heads & Tails Challenge

Proceeds to the Defibrillator Fund

Weekdays at Woosehill

Wool With A Mission - third Thursday of the month from 10am to midday:

March 21st

April 18th

May 16th

June 20th



Refreshments are served and you are welcome to bring children.

For more information see:

<https://woolwithamission.wordpress.com>

email: woolwam@gmail.com

Would you, or anyone you know, like to knit for local children in need? You don't need to be able to get to our meetings. You can simply knit or crochet at home and we will arrange to get the items of clothing to First Days. For more information about First Days, and for patterns please see our web site <https://woolwithamission.wordpress.com> or phone **07511 230036**.

Sing Something Simple

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month, outside of school holidays, at Woosehill Church from **10.00am to 12.00pm**

April 4th

May 2nd - no session, church used for voting

June 6th

For more information see:

<https://singwoosehill.wordpress.com>



Woosehill Watercolour

Places are limited on this new Thursday morning initiative, so have a word with Eileen for further details





The Parish of St Paul's, Wokingham with
St Nicholas, Emmbrook and Woosehill Church
Invite you to



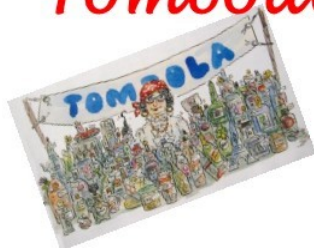
Coffee Morning

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road,
RG41 1EH

10.00am – 12.00am

Saturday 18th May

Tombola *Plant Stall*



Tea, Coffee and Cakes
Everyone Welcome

Confessions of a Preacher.

Acknowledging this reality that my words can be stones rather than bread unless the Holy Spirit transforms them into Living Bread, is a great antidote to and defence against pride in a preacher.

The reality is that any real transforming effect of my preaching is the work of the Holy Spirit, NOT my exegesis, application, illustrations or oratory [all of which are necessary elements of faithful, biblical, relevant preaching]. Indeed, sometimes I feel very humbled, almost ashamed, that the Lord has used my inadequate preparation [yes, sadly], my lengthy rambling, and/or my lack of simple clarity, to effect such response in some hearers. To God Alone Be the Glory! Amen.

(Adapted from “Kiwi- Made Preaching” ...an initiative of Langham Partnership New Zealand).

Patrick Mukholi





WOOSEHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

31st March at 10.00am

**This is a relaxed
Café Church style**

Mothering Sunday

We would love you to join us for one of our services
as we celebrate, give thanks and remember all the amazing
women in our lives

Lent Course

'Dangerous Stories', scripture from the margins:

Bible studies on the Parables.
Tuesdays from 12th March – 9th April
8.00-9.30pm at Church.
All very welcome.



DANGEROUS STORIES

**scripture from
the margins**

**Bible studies on the parables
from Church Action on Poverty**

In the parish

COFFEE & CHAT

ST PAUL'S PARISH ROOMS

READING ROAD, WOKINGHAM

**EVERY
FRIDAY
2 - 4pm**

At a loose end ?
Feeling lonely ?
Had a bad week ?

Drop in for a drink and a friendly chat



FIRSTSTEPS

for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers to introduce the children to church in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

2nd Thursday of Each Month during Term Time

**11th April; 9th May.
Children's Chapel**

St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Please come along with your pre-school children for
songs, stories, craft activities and refreshments.

For more information call Rev'd Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116
or
Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176



Easter Services 2019

Tuesday Evening Communion at 8pm, 16th April

**Maundy Thursday Agape Meal at 7:30pm, 18th April
at Rose street Methodist Church**

Good Friday Service at 2pm, 19th April

Easter Sunday Communion at 10am, 21st April

REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday

Church services - see Services Diary and weekly newsletter

Mondays at 8pm: House Group

For more information talk to Geoff Peck: 9786711
geoffpeck@hotmail.com

Tuesday

Bible study group: Exploring Faith from 8-9.30pm in the church.

Wednesday

Tadpoles group: Coffee and play for pre-school children and their carers
9.00-11.00am in term time.

Contact: Val Weedon: 9791156/ 07919062770
or valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

Thursday

Together in prayer: monthly on third Thursday from 8-9pm
Contact Lyn Brown: 9782816

Saturday

Church work party: first Saturday in month 10.30am
Contact John Hoskins: 9792597

Church contacts

Rev'd Patrick Mukholi - 23 Sheridan Way, Wokingham, RG41 3AP 0118 9773397 patrick.mukholi@spauls.org.uk

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116
richard.lamey@spauls.org.uk

St Paul's Parish Office, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EH
0118 979 2122 (Parish administrator Louise Cole)
office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead

5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 9781756
minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk

For room hire bookings contact Tony Sayer on 0118 9786560
or email tony.sayer@ntlworld.com

**Pattern of Services at Woosehill**

Keep an eye out in the newsletter for more up to date information too. You can receive this weekly by email:

contact Alison Lewis at woosehill.church@goolemail.com

1st Sunday:

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

2nd Sunday:

**10am Holy Communion with
Sunday Club for our young people**

3rd Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

4th Sunday

10am Holy Communion

4pm Messy Church - for all ages

6.15pm Evening Reflective Worship

(5th Sunday)

10am Café Church

5.30pm Service at Suffolk Lodge Care Home